

The NORTHWEST AIRLIFTER

McChord Air Force Base, Wash.

Connecting Team McChord with the Combat Airlift Mission

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Mission puts Airmen near South Pole

*Aircrews fly scientists,
equipment to Antarctica*

By

1st Lt. Erika Yepsen
62nd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

MCMURDO STATION, Antarctica – A McChord jet touched down on a sheet of sea ice here Thursday as part of Operation Deep Freeze.

The C-17 Globemaster III, loaded with National Science Foundation supplies, equipment and personnel along with members of the 62nd and 446th Airlift Wings, landed on the ice runway as part of the joint mission the Air Force has participated in annually since 1957.

The flight is the first of eight C-17 missions this month in support of Deep Freeze, which runs through November and into December before the ice runways become unstable due to ice breakup, according to mission experts.

"The Antarctic is a spectacular and unforgiving environment," said Lt. Col. Jim McGann, 304th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron commander who is deployed from the 62nd Operations Group. "It provides a tremendous challenge for our people and our aircraft, but it is also the experience of a lifetime and a whole lot of fun."

The operation, currently in its 50th season, provides logistical support for NSF research facilities located throughout Antarctica where the average temperature barely reaches the freezing point.

The extreme weather challenges every aircrew member as Airmen must remain alert, monitoring the condition of the aircraft and weather to ensure a safe flight, said Staff Sgt. Ronald Broughton, deployed from the 62nd Maintenance Squadron.

This includes monitoring how far the aircraft sinks into the ice runway. Airmen must ensure the runway doesn't become overstressed and pos-



From left, Senior Airman Kory Williams, 8th Airlift Squadron, and Senior Master Sgt. David Stutts, 313th Airlift Squadron, assess the C-17 Globemaster III's condition after landing on the ice runway Thursday at McMurdo Station, Antarctica. The McChord jet shuttled supplies, equipment and personnel for Operation Deep Freeze.

sibly crack – a hazard aircrews don't have to consider at any other location, he said.

C-17 support for Deep Freeze is measured in seasons consisting of three phases, which run from August to March. During the first phase, called "Winfly," Airmen and equipment are sent in August to prepare the ice runway.

The majority of personnel and supplies are then flown between New Zealand and Antarctica during the main season, which runs from now through December. The season concludes in March with the redeployment phase as scientists and personnel are shuttled off the ice before

Antarctica's winter weather closes the runway.

"It's definitely not the same old [flight]," said Capt. Phil Poeppelman, a pilot from the 8th Airlift Squadron. "We're used to having references like trees and houses as we're flying along, but down there it's just flat ice."

OPERATION DEEP FREEZE

Read more about the challenges of landing a C-17 Globemaster III on the ice on pages 8 and 9.

Strong winds cut power in base housing

By

1st Lt. Rachel Smith
62nd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

A broken tree limb knocked out a power conductor around 1 a.m. Monday in the base housing area leaving 900 homes without power, said Staff Sgt. John Cote, 62nd Civil Engineer Squadron.

Gusty winds reaching 65 mph broke off a tree branch six inches in diameter. When the crew responded to the area where the lines were sev-

ered, a couple of lines were found hanging down amidst a mess of tree branches.

"It was just a matter of putting our heads together and doing the whole thing safely," Sergeant Cote said.

Although the rain subsided during the cleanup and repair, Sergeant Cote said the crew still had to deal with strong winds.

After safely isolating and installing a ground cluster on the power lines, the crew replaced two damaged conductors, one with a

span of 200 feet.

The electrical systems crew finally isolated the damaged area and restored power to 600 residents at 2:45 a.m., said Staff Sergeant Billy Streun, 62nd CES.

The early morning storm scattered branches, leaves and trash basewide, said James England, 62nd CES.

Crews worked Monday through Wednesday to clean up the debris, Mr. England said.

Power was restored to the remaining 300 homes by 9 a.m. Monday.



Arlet Roberts, 62nd Civil Engineer Squadron maintenance engineer, dissects a fallen tree Monday morning near Bldg. 100.

Weekend Weather

FRIDAY



Hi: 52
Low: 39

SATURDAY



Hi: 49
Low: 40

SUNDAY



Hi: 52
Low: 44

Forecast generated at 7 a.m. Wednesday
Courtesy of the 62nd Operations Support Squadron

Mission accomplished

Total McChord sorties	16,887
Total flying hours	52,662.6
Cargo moved (tons)	136,686.7
Departure reliability rate	94.9%
Mission capable rate	84.9%
Personnel currently deployed	734
Reservists currently activated.....	299
(Jan. 1 to Tuesday. Numbers updated Tuesday.)	

Don't miss it ...

**"Operation Little Heroes"
Family Deployment Line**

A family deployment line is from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 6 to 8 p.m. today in Hangar 5. Call 982-2695 for more information.

Family members key part of team

By
Col. Jerry Martinez
62nd Airlift Wing commander

The Global War on Terrorism has set a high operations tempo for the Air Force. Whether at home or deployed, we all feel the pressure to accomplish the mission smarter and faster.

I've been deployed to Camp Arifjan for some time now, and as I near the end of my deployment, I've had the opportunity to fly and visit deployed McChord Airmen throughout the U.S. Central Command's area of responsibility.

Seeing the green tails in the sky and visiting deployed Airmen has confirmed what I already knew – McChord is home to the hardest charging Airmen in the Air Force!

The Airmen from McChord are not the only ones here fighting the Global War on Terrorism. Our families also play their unique role in fighting from the home-front. Spouses must pick up extra duties that their husband or wife used to do, from mowing the lawn to grocery shopping to getting the kids to sports and school events.

Children also make many sacrifices to

support their deployed parents, from doing extra chores around the house to birthdays and events with one of their parents unable to attend. Though it may seem small, the contributions of each person in the family make it possible to get our Airmen out the door to serve overseas.

Today, the Airman and family readiness center will host a family deployment line for McChord families. Children can walk through a deployment processing line to see what their mom and dad experience before they deploy and learn more about why we deploy.

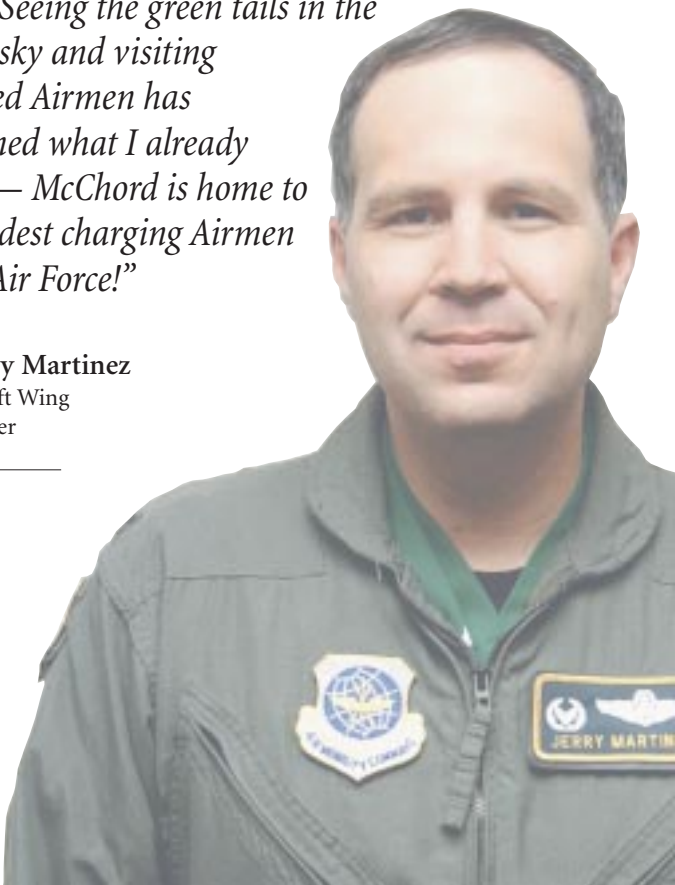
I encourage you all to bring your kids out for this event. It truly helps the family member understand what their parent is doing. In addition, the kids get to have a great time and will later tell some good stories about their deployment preparations.

Our children are a key part of our service, I couldn't deploy or work the hours I do without my kids' support. It's important for us to help them understand why we serve and why we ask them for so much support.

Your families are an important part of the McChord team, and I thank all of you for your many sacrifices. Kim Travis, and Tayler....I miss you!

“Seeing the green tails in the sky and visiting deployed Airmen has confirmed what I already know — McChord is home to the hardest charging Airmen in the Air Force!”

Col. Jerry Martinez
62nd Airlift Wing commander



Taking advantage of education opportunities



“Some of you may say you don't have the time between your Air Force career and your family. But you have to make the time ...”

Chief Master Sgt.
Russell Kuck
62nd Airlift Wing
command chief

By
Chief Master Sgt. Russell Kuck
62nd Airlift Wing
command chief master sergeant

B.B. King said it best, “The beautiful thing about learning is that no one can take it away.”

Some of the best benefits the Air Force offers us are the education programs such as tuition assistance, which pays 100 percent towards an advanced degree.

Yet, less than 20 percent of enlisted Airmen have an associate's degree whether it's a civilian or Community College of the Air Force degree.

Attending college and getting a CCAF degree helps for below the zone promotions, recognition packages, job enhancements and a lot more. Soon it will be a requirement for senior rater endorsement on enlisted performance reports for senior NCOs.

Some special duty positions, such as a professional military education instructor and technical training instructors, require a CCAF degree.

Some of you may say you don't have the time between your Air Force career and your family. But you have to make the time and today is the best day to start your degree program!

Whether you come in for four years or stay for 30, eventually you'll leave the Air Force and having a degree will help open doors to another career.

I know what it's like to be busy (constantly TDY, visiting work centers, working weekends and long hours), but I have made it a priority to get my degrees. I have completed seven classes this past year. You should make it your priority, too; because you owe it to yourself, your career, and to your family. So, take advantage of the education opportunities available to you today, you'll never regret it. Hooah!

Ask the Vice Commander

E-mail ActionLine@mcchord.af.mil or call 982-2222

Vice Commander's Action Line

Q. The crosswalks in front of the commissary are getting so worn that you can hardly see them, even during the day. Is there any way they could be painted?

A. I have also noticed those crosswalks in front of the commissary and agree that they are pretty worn. As soon as funds become available, my 62nd Civil Engineer Squadron will arrange to have the crosswalks repainted. Thank you for bringing this safety issue to my attention.

Q: My complaint or problem is at the end of the day, people do not stop and render the courtesies of retreat. Not only outside, but people driving on the base. My daughter commented yesterday when I stopped and people were passing me, that they're disrespecting the flag and I completely agree. And I think we need to do something about it. Thank you.

A: Thank you for setting the example and observing retreat properly. It is an honor to serve

The Vice Commander's Action Line provides a direct link of communication between you and me, with the goal of building a better community. Your concerns, questions and ideas are highly valued and are key in enhancing Team McChord's mission and community. I encourage you to give the professionals here, together with your chain of command, the opportunity to address your concerns directly. However, questions that come through the Action Line have my personal attention. Please be sure to leave your name and phone number, so we can follow up with you. Comments and questions that apply to a large base audience will be published in the base newspaper.

Col. Shane Hershman
62nd Airlift Wing vice commander

our country, and we should all take the time to respect the flag that symbolizes this great nation. As you may have seen in prior issues of *The Northwest Airlifter*, we have published photos of Airmen rendering the proper customs and courtesies during retreat with a reminder of what one is expected to do in or out of uniform during retreat on an Air Force base.

Please continue to help by reminding your fellow Combat Airlifters of their customs and courtesies if you see someone neglecting to pay tribute to the flag.

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Expertise, trust lead to success

By

Lt. Col. Brian Robinson
10th Airlift Squadron commander

The military has been constantly deployed and engaged in various levels of conflict for 16 of my 19 years of service. The ultimate service to the Air Force is to equip people with the critical skills required to lead men and women into battle and bring them home safely. As leaders, one of the most important responsibilities is developing the Air Force's future leaders with tactical and operational expertise. This requires three things: standards, trust and experience.

Leaders must clearly define performance standards. Defining a measurable standard is the foundation for successfully executing any mission or task. Clearly defining the standard takes effective communication. Full knowledge and awareness of the standards postures the unit for success from the beginning.

After identifying the standards, leaders should stand watch to ensure the unit remains on course. Then, one of the more challenging characteristics of leadership comes into play. Leaders must trust their Airmen to accomplish the mission. There are so many elements to accomplishing the mission it is impossible to get it done by flying solo. With trust to maneuver within the boundaries, people will amaze their leaders with the range of solutions they come up with, develop a sense of ownership and contribution in the unit, and remain motivated.

Trust is critical because it instills a sense of pride and self-fulfillment. Demonstrated

trust will also breed honest communication throughout the unit, enabling essential information to reach leadership in minimal time. Trust is the precursor for leaders to give their people the experiences they need to fully develop.

People learn most by doing. Therefore, it's essential our Airmen have an appropriate degree of latitude to accomplish their tasks and develop experience. In doing so, people will occasionally make mistakes in getting the job done. However, leaders must remember to trust them to do the right thing.

One of the many responsibilities leaders have is to identify potential mistakes and sometimes allow them to occur with careful control. Airmen may take the most from these kinds of experiences. In other situations, leaders need to take preemptive action to prevent a major catastrophe or mission failure from occurring. However, this needs to be accomplished through effective communication with their Airmen. Leaders should consider what they see based on their experience, what is on the horizon and how much rudder they need to apply to stay or get back on course.

Finally, leaders' most precious responsibility is to train and equip the commanders, chiefs and senior noncommissioned officers of tomorrow. Accomplishing the post-Cold War mission in this environment requires focus on equipping and developing future leaders for tactical and operational success.

The military is entering a challenging period where we must accomplish the mission with less. Today's Air Force is the most battle experienced in a generation, and we must preserve that combat edge.

Combat Airlifter

of the week

Senior Airman Luke Erickson

4th Airlift Squadron

Duty title:

C-17 Globemaster III
instructor and Prime
Nuclear Airlift Force
loadmaster

Duty Section:

4th Airlift Squadron prime
nuclear airlift force
department

Hometown:

Strum, Wis.



What makes him so great?

Airman Erickson's dedication and commitment to excellence has been the cornerstone of the 4th AS's prime nuclear airlift force section. As a PNAF mission scheduler and planner, Airman Erickson identified and implemented corrections to three separate operating checklists; this action helped streamline current procedures, greatly enhancing PNAF mission completion. Airman Erickson's extensive PNAF experience proved vital while updating section publications, forms and deployable mission kits. This stringent oversight ensured complete compliance with local and worldwide deployment requirements. Additionally, Airman Erickson's vast PNAF technical knowledge and performance was recognized during the squadron's recent Nuclear Staff Assistance Visit, earning him accolades as an "exceptional performer."



AROUND THE WORLD

More than 800 Airmen from nearly every career field are deployed around the world supporting Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom. Here are a few photos of McChord's Airmen in action.



SOUTHWEST ASIA — Deployed Airmen, including members from the 62nd Civil Engineer Squadron, line up for weapons training at the Buehring firing range here recently.



SOUTHWEST ASIA — Staff Sgt. Douglas Pettigrew, 8th Expeditionary Air Mobility Squadron, marshals in a C-17 Globemaster III recently. The 8th EAMS maintenance flights provide strategic maintenance on transient aircraft such as the C-17 and C-5 Galaxy. Sergeant Pettigrew is deployed from the 62nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron.



Courtesy photos

SATHER AIR BASE, Iraq — Lt. Col. Michael Cannon, 447th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron commander, leads his team in a "Battle Rattle Run" recently. Colonel Cannon is deployed from the 62nd Aerial Port Squadron.



Airmen arrive home safe

Families reunite after deployment

By
Tyler Hemstreet
Staff writer

Capt. Mark Radio will enjoy every moment of his time with his family during rest and relaxation leave the 10th Airlift Squadron received after the squadron's return from a 120-day deployment.

Captain Radio's wife, Christine, said her husband was looking forward to seeing his family and returning to the comforts of home.

"It's such a blessing to have every-

one back home and safe," she said. "We're glad to have him back and proud of the work [the 10th AS] did over there."

During the four months in the theater, the 10th AS, deployed as the 817th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron, flew more than 1,200 missions logging 4,600 flying hours, delivering 65 million pounds of cargo and moving 26,500 passengers.

"It couldn't have gone any better," said Capt. Corey Simmons, 10th AS. "I've never been more proud of anything that I've done."

Going in, the plan for the squadron was to leave the 817th EAS in better shape than how they received it, said Lt. Col. Brian Robinson, 10th AS commander.

The 10th AS accomplished its mission, he said.

Highlights of the deployment include the performance of the first combat airdrop out of Manas, Kyrgyzstan, in Operation Mountain Fury in which they delivered more than 50,000 pounds of ammunition to the front line. The squadron was also involved in the evacuation of more than 450 American citizens from Lebanon.

Additionally, the 10th AS supported the critical bailey bridge movement in Afghanistan. Once installed, the bridge will help reduce dependence on aerial resupply to a very remote forward area, thereby keeping flight crews out of harms way in the high-threat area.

"We went out there and did all of that with no mishaps," Colonel Robinson said. "The fact that we brought everyone back safe and alive is huge."



Photos by Capt. Phil Shea

Capt. Mike Whitacre, 10th Airlift Squadron, holds his son, Austin, during a welcome home celebration Nov. 7 in the McChord passenger terminal. Austin was born in August just before Captain Whitacre deployed to join the 817th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron.

In a mission that hit close to home, the 10th AS airlifted several Cougar and Buffalo anti-improvised explosive device vehicles to troops on the front line, something with a direct tie to the Airmen from McChord, Colonel Robinson said.

"Some of those guys getting those vehicles are stationed out of Fort Lewis," he said. "My kids play with their kids. It's rare to have that direct tie to helping protect and keep the local community members alive."

The deployment also helped the crew set a milestone in becoming the first C-17 Globemaster III crew to operationally establish an improved

container delivery system, Colonel Robinson said.

In addition to creating new airdrop procedures and new air refueling opportunities, the mission further strengthened an already-tight bond between squadron members, Captain Simmons said.

"This is the first opportunity I had to really spend a lot of time with the squadron [due to the two expeditionary airlift squadron concept]," Captain Simmons said. "We're closer leaving the deployment than we were before. Now that we're home, those relationships will continue to grow stronger."



Col. Shane Hershman, 62nd Airlift Wing vice commander, greets Airman 1st Class Chris Charlton, a loadmaster with the 10th Airlift Squadron, upon his arrival Nov. 7 on McChord's flightline. Airman Charlton deployed for 120 days to the 817th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Minnette Fontanilla

Crafty creations

From left, Debra Tenbusch and Debbie Brantigam, both spouses of McChord Airmen, use scrapbook and stamping products to create holiday crafts during an Enlisted Spouses Club meeting Tuesday at the base chapel support center. The club is open to all McChord spouses. For more information about ESC and to view upcoming holiday events, visit the club's Web site at <http://www.mcchordesc.tripod.com>.

Peace, stability possible in Iraq says top U.S. CENTCOM general

By
Army Sgt. Sara Wood
American Press Service



ABIZAID

WASHINGTON — Both Iraqi and American leaders believe the Iraqi government can take control of its country and develop a stable nation that is at peace with its neighbors and an ally in the war on terror, the top U.S. commander in the Middle East said here today.

Testifying before the Senate Armed Services Committee, Army Gen. John Abizaid, commander of U.S. Central Command, outlined the current situation in Iraq and the way forward. Violence remains high across Iraq, Abizaid acknowledged, but the Iraqi security forces consistently perform well and, with strong support from the government, can be successful against the insurgents.

"Iraqis and Americans alike believe that Iraq can stabilize and that the key to stabilization is effective, loyal, nonsectarian Iraqi security forces coupled with an effective government of national unity," General Abizaid said.

Iraqi forces can take more control and responsibility faster, but the U.S. must invest more resources into the military transition teams,

speed the delivery of logistics and mobility enablers, and embrace an aggressive Iraqi-led effort to disarm illegal militias, General Abizaid said.

The Iraqi armed forces continue to perform well, even under pressure from sectarian violence, General Abizaid said.

At this point in Iraq, the coalition needs flexibility with its own forces and with Iraqi security forces, General Abizaid said. Any limits on force levels or specific timetables for withdrawal would limit that flexibility and therefore limit the transition to an Iraqi-led security environment, he said. Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki and his government want to do more in their own country, General Abizaid said.

"[Maliki's] duly-elected, legitimate government deserves our support, and his armed forces, backed by ours, deserve his full support," he said.



McChord's aircrews slide through Deep Freeze

By
1st Lt. Erika Yepsen
62nd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

MCMURDO STATION, Antarctica – One thing about flying here is McChord C-17 pilots don't have to worry about bird strikes until they land on the frozen runway. Air Force jets are about the only birds that fly this far south — the other birds walk.

Despite a frigid 5 degrees below zero with winds gusting up to 28 miles an hour, the McChord-based aircrew lifted off from their base of operations in Christchurch and safely landed the C-17 Globemaster III on a sea ice runway near here Thursday.

The Air Force has flown into the world's most inhospitable environment for 50 years, since Operation Deep Freeze first began in 1957 to support National Science Foundation research on the frozen continent.

The crew

Every C-17 aircrew that flies onto the ice is a mix of active duty and Reserve Airmen with various levels of experience, said Lt. Col. Jim McGann, 304th EAS commander.

Thursday's crew was no exception as veteran pilots and loadmasters were on-hand to train new Deep Freeze crew members such as Capt. Phil Poeppelman and Senior Airman Kory Williams, both from the 8th Airlift Squadron.

"We're flying to a place where there's not another alternate airfield to land at within 2,000 miles," said Captain Poeppelman, after landing a C-17 on the ice for the first time.

Even though Captain Poeppelman and

Airman Williams are new to Deep Freeze, they are far from new to the C-17. Airman Williams has logged approximately 2,000 hours in C-17s, but he recognizes the unique opportunity this mission affords.

"Deep Freeze is about the best deal you can get as a loadmaster," said Airman Williams.

The cargo

About five hours after departing Christchurch, the massive cargo jet, stuffed to the gills with 79,780 pounds of equipment and personnel for the NSF's research in Antarctica came to a smooth stop and began disgorging its cargo.

Scientists and support personnel poured off the plane in a stream of bright red parkas, a stark contrast to the icy Antarctic backdrop. Forklifts appeared behind the plane quickly to unload the awaited cargo. A short distance away, McMurdo sat nestled in a nearby valley, a small village more developed than one would expect after seeing the icy, rugged terrain stretching into the distance.

Unlike other locations McChord aircrews frequently fly into, they are received with open arms, instead of small arms fire. The cargo they bring includes everything from mail to fresh food to research equipment.

The main project Deep Freeze has been supporting this season is a 10-meter telescope which will be constructed at the South Pole.

For now, the packages and research equipment can be brought to McMurdo Station easily as the sea ice runway where the C-17s land is a short drive to the station, but as summer comes to the

ice, the journey will become more difficult.

In due time, the sea ice runway, which is currently 85 inches thick, will disappear melting under the warmer temperatures.

Mactown

As the plane unloaded, a few aircrew members were designated to stay with the plane while others boarded a red van with oversize wheels that would put a big rig to shame to take a tour of "Mactown."

Maria Chavez, the driver and tour director from Colorado, took the group of Airmen to see the few sites the town has to offer, including a hut built over 100 years ago, which has remained in pristine condition, preserved by the cold temperature.

"The best part of the tour was the breathtaking view," said Staff Sgt. Sergio Casillas, a maintainer deployed from the 62nd Maintenance Squadron who is on his second trip to the ice. "It was a spiritual thing for me. It looks like a white desert of snow and ice, like God painted it. We're very fortunate and privileged to come down here."

The return trip

After a short time on the ice, the aircrew returned to the now nearly empty aircraft awaiting them and departed the frozen continent, bringing a meager few personnel and pallets of cargo with them.

Gary Eells, a 17-year veteran of the U.S. Antarctic Program and maintenance manager for Raytheon, the contract company supporting the NSF in Antarctica, was among the few returning from the ice.

After nearly four months on the ice, Mr. Eells also admits he's looking forward to returning home and the comforts of a more temperate environment.

"The first thing I like to do when I get to New Zealand is go to the botanic garden. I want to smell green," he said.

The future

The 304th EAS has 27 more missions planned before it will conclude this season of support in March 2007.

Already, in 28 completed missions, the Airmen of the 304th have moved 2,146 passengers and nearly two million pounds of cargo to McMurdo Station this season, and they don't plan on slowing down.

In fact, Colonel McGann has set his sights for the 304th even higher or, geographically speaking, lower: the South Pole.

The 304th EAS is scheduled to complete the first C-17 airdrop mission over the South Pole on Dec. 19, but C-17s have yet to land at the world's most remote airfield.

"Right now only the ski equipped Air Force LC-130s can land at the South Pole, but in 2010, when they compact the runway, we will land a C-17 on the South Pole," said Colonel McGann. "Most of what they need is fuel, and a C-17 can carry about 120,000 pounds of fuel, nearly six times what the LC-130 can. That's a huge savings in flights."

Though Colonel McGann knows landing on the South Pole is still four years away for the C-17, he has great confidence in Team McChord's ability to continue to meet the challenges of bringing airlift to places where even the birds walk.



National Science Foundation personnel pass the time during a flight from Christchurch, New Zealand, to Antarctica Thursday morning.



For more pictures from Operation Deep Freeze, visit: <http://www.public.mcchord.af.mil>.



Photos by 1st Lt. Erika Yepsen

A forklift is used to onload a McChord C-17 Globemaster III parked near McMurdo Station, Antarctica.



Capt. Philip Poeppelman, 8th Airlift Squadron, runs pre-flight checklists Thursday before departing Christchurch, New Zealand, for McMurdo Station, Antarctica.



Cargo is transferred from a McChord C-17 Globemaster III to an awaiting LC-130 Hercules operated by the New York Air National Guard near McMurdo Station, Antarctica.



Senior Airman Kory Williams, 8th Airlift Squadron, checks the height of a forklift pallet before it's loaded on a McChord C-17 Globemaster III Thursday.

CS snaps APS win streak

By
Tyler Hemstreet
Staff writer

Quarterback Anthony Butler threw for three touchdowns and ran for another, leading the 62nd Communications Squadron to a 26-13 victory over the 62nd Aerial Port Squadron Tuesday night at Rainier Field.

The win earned CS its 11th victory of the season and snapped a 10-game winning streak by APS.

Butler, a starting running back at the Air Force Academy from 2001 to 2004, ranks 19th all-time on the career rushing list with 1,525 yards.

“It’s all mental,” Butler said. “You have to think you’re the best player out there, and you can be.”

The Division I-bred confidence Butler has brought with him has rubbed off on the team, team-mates say.

But it was APS that looked strong early, putting together a strong opening drive and getting on the board first with a 2-yard touchdown run by quarterback Anthony Calogero. CS answered with a drive of its own, taking the ball all the way to the goal line before turning it over on downs with just under eight minutes left in the half.

But the CS defense bailed out the offense as Mark Melchert picked off Calogero at the APS 10-yard line, giving CS prime field position.

“When we get a turnover that deep, it’s pretty much automatic,” Butler said.

It was indeed, as CS scored just two plays later when Butler found David Crespo with a 5-yard touchdown pass. A conversion on the extra point gave CS a 7-6 lead,



Photo by Tyler Hemstreet

Receiver Mark Melchert, 62nd Communications Squadron, clutches the ball while running for a first down against the 62nd Aerial Port Squadron defense Tuesday at Rainier Field. CS won the game 26-13.

one it wouldn’t relinquish.

After CS got the ball back with two minutes left in the half, Butler rolled left and unleashed a 50-yard bomb which landed softly in the hands of Josh McClanathan.

Butler and McClanathan hooked up again on the opening drive of the second half, giving CS a 20-6 lead. APS refused to quit as Calogero tossed a 10-yard strike to Joseph Quiroga, cutting the CS lead to 20-13 after the extra point conversion.

A 5-yard touchdown run by Butler with 2 minutes, 40 seconds left on the clock capped the win for CS.

While Butler’s rocket arm and

quick feet led the charge, the receiving core was flawless as Butler completed all but a few passes.

“We’re just playing as a team,” McClanathan said. “People have just gotten into their role with the team.”

Participation has also played a large role in CS’s success this year, McClanathan said.

“We’ve never had to play with seven,” he said. “We’ve always had at least nine or ten guys out here. Last year we struggled to get seven a lot. Consistency and the same guys coming out have been big.”

APS fell to 10-2 on the year, while CS improved to 11-2.

‘Voices’ win over Seahawk crowd

By
Tyler Hemstreet
Staff writer

SEATTLE, Wash. — With 68,175 pairs of ears intently listening, the Voices of McChord delivered a barber shop quartet version of “The Star-Spangled Banner” in front of its largest venue Sunday before the Seahawks took on the St. Louis Rams at Qwest Field.

The performance was part of the Seahawks 2006 Military Appreciation Game and Veteran’s Day celebrations where Airmen from McChord also joined a joint service color guard and participated in the pregame ceremony.

Four active duty and Reserve vocalists represented McChord’s all-volunteer choir: Tech. Sgt. Kristy Fry, 446th Mission Support Squadron; Airman 1st Class James Boswell, 62nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron; and Staff Sgt. David James and Senior Master Sgt. Steve Tuggle, both 62nd Maintenance Operation Squadron Airmen.

The decision to switch from a Tops in Blue version of the song to a more personal one was made in October when the group accepted an invitation to sing, said Sergeant Tuggle.

“We wanted something unique and different that could showcase four voices,” Sergeant Tuggle said.

There were moments of trepidation early, though, as the quartet experienced feedback problems with the audio in their ears during the sound check.

“We were really nervous early because of the reverberation and how we were hearing ourselves in the ear pieces,” Sergeant James said.

Despite the audio difficulties, the group remained confident.

“We just knew we needed to get it right,” Sergeant Tuggle said. “We were more concerned about complimenting each other than we were about the big crowd listening.”

After repeated practice sessions in a room below the stadium, the group rose to the occasion when it was time to go on. Adorned in their dress blues, they emerged from the 50-yard line entrance, walked through light rain and delivered the national anthem.

There was a focus on getting the pitch of the song correct early, Sergeant James said. Once everyone was on the right page, the quartet shined.

“I wasn’t nervous a bit after the first three notes,” Sergeant James said.

After the quartet finished the song, four Army OH-58 Kiowa helicopters flew over the stadium.

“When I heard the helicopters go by and all the cheering after we finished ... it was definitely an experience I will always remember,” Sergeant James said.

The impact of the event was felt on the entire group, Sergeant Tuggle said.

“It was a good feeling afterwards,” he added. “When the crowd started roaring, it sent shivers down my spine.”



Photo by Abner Guzman

Game on!

SEATTLE, Wash. — Staff Sgt. Nigel LeBlanc and 2nd Lt. Emily Barry, both from the 62nd Logistics Readiness Squadron, march with joint servicemembers during the pregame ceremonies Sunday at Seattle’s Qwest Field. The Airmen represented the 62nd Airlift Wing as part of the Seattle Seahawks 2006 Military Appreciation Game against the St. Louis Rams. Also featured during the event were the Voices of McChord (see story on this page).

Center gives McChord families chance to ‘escape’

By
Tyler Hemstreet
Staff writer

The name and location say it all. Nestled in a grove of tall trees off Lincoln Boulevard, McChord’s Escape Zone is a place for newborns to 5-year-olds and their parents to combat overwhelming feelings brought on by deployments or family relocation to and from McChord.

The center, which has been operating for nearly four years, gives mothers and their children a chance to learn new skills, meet new people and establish community connections, said Cheryl Vollmer, director of the McChord Airman and

Family Readiness Center. The Escape Zone provides a colorful and bright atmosphere where mothers and their children can play games, make crafts and interact with each other, said Escape Zone coordinator Frances Briseno-Wendel, 62nd Mission Support Squadron. Although parents are required to supervise their children at all times, the interaction throughout the center provides a great social opportunity for the children and their parents.

“The fact that it’s on base and free is the best thing,” Ms. Briseno-Wendel said. “It also provides parents a place where they can see what other services the base offers them.”

It’s not uncommon for mothers to connect with each other while at the center with their children and realize they live just down the street from each other, she said.

There’s also a host of special guests that visit — including Sparky the Fire Dog and guest speakers from off-base organizations. For example, in May, as part of Asian Pacific Islander Month, volunteers from the museum visited the center and shared artifacts with the children, said Ms. Briseno-Wendel.

The center also routinely brings in a representative from the family advocacy program at Life Skills to teach infant massage and infant sign language techniques, she said.

“It’s a benefit to be able to tell parents about this place,” said Vicki



Photo by Abner Guzman

From left, Gabriel Granillo and Ellison Young decide which crayon to use during a coloring session Tuesday at McChord's Escape Zone.

Lunghofer, a family advocacy nurse specialist with the 62nd Medical Group’s New Parent Support Group. “It’s such a resource.”

While the visitors to the center are usually mothers and their children, as deployment buckets shift and the holiday season rings in, it isn’t uncommon to see fathers and grandparents bring a child to the Escape Zone, Ms. Briseno-Wendel said.


Growth in the number of participants is a common trend with the

Escape Zone, she said.

In the four years it has been open, participation has nearly quadrupled, Ms. Vollmer said.

“That really tells us that we answered a need for families here on base,” she said, noting average attendance is around 500 people per month.

The Escape Zone is open Monday through Friday from 9 to 11 a.m. and 1 to 3:30 p.m. For a calendar of events, call 982-8590.



**Upcoming holiday events at
The Escape Zone**

Today: Stamping Fun, from 9 to 11 a.m. and 1 to 3:30 p.m.

Tuesday: Thanksgiving Bookmark, from 9 to 11 a.m. and 1 to 3:30 p.m.

Wednesday: Thanksgiving Plate, from 9 to 11 a.m. and 1 to 3:30 p.m.

**The Escape Zone will be closed
Thursday and Friday for the
Thanksgiving holiday.**



Family deployment line

Team McChord invites family members to the Family Deployment Line “Operation Little Heroes” from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 6 to 8 p.m. today. To make a reservation, call the Airman and family readiness center at 982-2695.

Retiree appreciation

Retiree Appreciation Day will take place from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday at McChord’s Clubs and Community Center. The event will feature a health fair at the base clinic, offering a wide range of medical services to retirees such as flu shots, blood pressure checks and bone density tests, as well as nutrition and fitness classes. Representatives from various military service organizations will also be on hand to answer questions about retiree benefits. For more information, call the retiree activities office at 982-3214.

Retirement Ceremonies

- Chief Master Sgt. Eduardo Lanuzga, 62nd Communications Squadron, will retire at 10 a.m. today at McChord’s Clubs and Community Center.
- Tech. Sgt. Brian Jensen, 62nd Maintenance Squadron,

will retire at 10 a.m. Monday in Hangar 2.

CFC volunteers

The base combined federal campaign seeks volunteers for a bowling tournament at noon Wednesday at the base bowling alley. To volunteer or for more information, call Capt. Jeff Brittain, 62nd Medical Support Squadron, at 982-2474.

Tax clinic volunteers

Base legal personnel seek volunteers for the Volunteer Return Preparation Program, formerly known as the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program. Training will be provided. For more information, call the legal office at 982-5512.

Rising Four meeting

A Rising Four meeting open to Airmen in grades E-1 through E-4 will be at 3 p.m. Nov. 27 at McChord’s Clubs and Community Center. Meetings take place on the last Monday of every month.

56 Club meeting

A 56 Club meeting open to Airmen in grades E-5 and E-6 will be at 3 p.m. Nov. 29 at McChord’s Clubs and

Community Center. Meetings take place on the fourth Wednesday of every month.

Road construction

Road repairs will take place between Lincoln Boulevard and South Gate Road until Dec. 29. Drivers are reminded to obey traffic revisions or use alternate routes if possible. For more information, call Brent Chapin, 62nd Civil Engineer Squadron, at 982-3304 or 677-5671.

UFT training

The Air Force Personnel Center is currently accepting applications for the undergraduate flying training selection board. The board will review active duty officer applications for selection for pilot, combat system officer and air battle manager training. For more information on the program or to apply, call formal training at 982-3357.

Lost and found

The 62nd Security Forces Squadron investigations section maintains a lost and found program for McChord. For items lost or misplaced on base within the last 180 days, call 982-2950.

Faith and Worship Programs

For more information, call the chapel support center at 982-5556.

The following chapel programs take place at the base chapel support center, Bldg. 746, unless otherwise noted.

- Faith Formation Youth Confirmation and Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults are 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays, Sept. through April.

- Combat Brown Bag Bible Study is from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Tuesdays.
- Adult Bible Study will resume in September.
- Jewish Torah School Classes for adults and children are 9:45 a.m. Sundays at Fort Lewis, Chapel Five.

Schedule of worship services

Catholic Services:

All Catholic Services are in Chapel Two
Daily Mass Tuesday - Friday 11:30 a.m.
Saturday: 4 p.m. Confession

5 p.m. Mass
Sunday: 9:30 a.m. Mass
11 a.m. Mass

Protestant Services:

Sunday: 8:30 a.m. Liturgical Worship: Chapel One
9:45 a.m. Sunday School for all ages at the chapel support center
11 a.m. Traditional Worship: Chapel One
11 a.m. Contemporary service: chapel support center

Jewish Services:

Friday: 7 p.m. Fort Lewis Chapel
Corner of 12th Street and Liggett Avenue 966-8949
Led by Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Avi Weiss

Orthodox Activities:

Sunday: 9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy, St. Nicholas Church, 15th Street and Yakima Avenue, Tacoma

Other services:

Orthodox Christian Community, Cascade Chapel, Fort Lewis

Sundays: 8:45 a.m. pre-Communion prayers
9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy

Confessions are by appointment; call Father John Anderson at 967-1717 or 906-6843, or e-mail father.anderson@us.army.mil



Name to Note

- Airman 1st Class Natasha Szeluga, 62nd Communications Squadron, was selected to compete in an Air Force Bowling Championship Nov. 26 to Dec. 2 at Fort Dix, N.J.

